

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 21 with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 2 depicts Figures 2A and 2B depict that interruption of the *sapF* gene by the miniTn5 transposon had no polar effect on the downstream *sapZ* gene in the *sapF::mTn5* mutant. RT-PCR analysis showing transcription of the *sapZ* gene (A). Insertion of miniTn5 in the *sapF* gene near the 3' end (B). Short arrows are RT-PCR primers. Lines represent RT-PCR products.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 26 with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 3 depicts Figures 3A and 3B depict RT-PCR analysis showing cotranscription of the *sapABCFDZ* genes as a single polycistronic mRNA. Transcriptional profile of the NTHi *sap* genes when grown in the sBHI media (A), and the computer predicted NTHi *sap* operon (B). Short arrows are RT-PCR primers. Lines represent RT-PCR products.